

## Plant Introductions Discussion Questions:

What is an 'ecosystem engineer' and what impacts does it have on the biotic and abiotic factors in an environment?

How do the economic uses of *Spartina* encourage introduction?

How have introductions of *Spartina* impacted various marshes throughout the world?

Is there ever a good time to introduce a non-native *Spartina* species to an area?

How has hybridization hindered or helped the spread of exotic *Spartina*?

Can invasive *Spartina* be successfully eradicated as part of a timely and feasible restoration project?

"Is it possible to control or eliminate populations of introduced *Phragmites* while protecting native populations?" (Silliman, et. al., pg. 71)

Why might hybridization of native and introduced types of *Phragmites* become problematic? Are there reasons why this hasn't officially happened yet in the wild?

Is there a positive place for introduced wetland plants - specifically *Spartina* and *Phragmites* - outside of their native ranges? (Consider issues such as soil erosion, climate change, and increased pollution or nutrient loads to estuaries.)